

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by WO 95/12623 (Hentges et al), is respectfully traversed.

In response to Applicant's argument that Hentges et al does not disclose a particular softening point range for their resin prior to hydrogenation or the hydrogenated copolymer as claimed prior to the above-discussed amendment, and that Hentges et al discloses dicyclopentadiene *per se* as a typical chain transfer agent, but not as a monomer in the preparation of a copolymer, the Examiner finds that Hentges et al discloses "a broad softening point range that covers both hydrogenated and non-hydrogenated ranges of the present claims," that in performing as a chain transfer agent, dicyclopentadiene also acts as a monomer, and that Hentges et al actually discloses a so-called Heartcut Distillate (HCD) containing dicyclopentadiene.

In reply, Hentges et al neither discloses nor suggests a hydrogenated copolymer, and a production process therefor, according to the above-amended claims. In Table IA of Hentges et al, a typical HCD is described, wherein the typical content of dicyclopentadiene/cymene is 0.29 wt%. The total amount of vinyl-substituted aromatic compounds in the HCD, i.e., styrene, alpha-methyl styrene, etc., makes up about 33 wt% of the HCD. Thus, the mixing ratio of dicyclopentadiene to vinyl-substituted aromatic compounds in the HCD is approximately  $0.29/33 \times 100$ , or only 0.88% by weight. When calculating based on the "Typical Range" column of Table IA, using the maximum amount for dicyclopentadiene/cymene, and the minimum amount for the vinyl-substituted aromatic compounds, the typical range is approximately  $0.8/24.8 \times 100$ , or only 3.2% by weight. On the other hand, when employing dicyclopentadiene as a chain transfer agent, as shown in Table IB of Hentges et al, the amount of dicyclopentadiene in the "Amylenes" type chain transfer agent is listed as 0.59, which is 0.71% wt%, based on the total weight of 83.07 of the

Amylenes components. Thus, even if the Examiner were correct that the dicyclopentadiene of Hentges et al formed a copolymer with vinyl-substituted aromatic compounds therein, the relative amount of dicyclopentadiene is significantly less than that required by the present claims.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in Hentges et al to produce a hydrogenated copolymer having the presently-recited mixing ratio.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

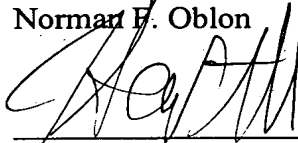
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